

Dr. Günther, which I have stuffed, as in the dry specimens the remains of the rings on the body may be better observed than when preserved in spirits. I have been unable to find any description in Duméril and Bibron of the large *Furina* of which I suppose the *F. textilis* to be the young; and, not being in possession of the British Museum Catalogue, I do not know whether this Snake has been described at all.

7. NOTE ON THE DEER OF FORMOSA. BY P. L. SCLATER, M.A.,
PH.D., F.R.S., SECRETARY TO THE SOCIETY.

(Plates XVI., XVII.)

In some remarks on the Japanese Deer received by the Society in 1860, which I made before the meeting of this Society in the month of November of that year*, I gave some reasons for considering *Cervus sika* of the 'Fauna Japonica,' *Cervus pseudaxis* of the French naturalists, and Dr. Gray's *Rusa japonica* as probably synonyms of the same species. In a communication made to the Society in the following year, Dr. Gray ultimately admits that his *Rusa japonica* is probably the same as *Cervus sika*, "though it differs so much from the figure and description of that animal in the 'Fauna Japonica'†;" and I believe there is now little doubt upon this point. Mr. Westerman, the Director of the Gardens of the Zoological Society of Amsterdam, to whom we parted with a pair of these Japanese Deer in 1861, has informed me that he was previously well acquainted with the species, and that it is certainly identical with the type of *Cervus sika* in the Leyden Museum. Since the arrival of the first example of this Deer (the pair presented to the Society by Mr. Wilks, July 21, 1860), we have received several others. In September, 1861, a female arrived from our Corresponding Member, Mr. Blyth of Calcutta, being one of the examples he has commented upon in the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal' (xxx. p. 90); and in June of the same year we purchased a pair of these animals, the male of which was subsequently parted with to Mr. Westerman. On the 31st of August, 1861, the female presented by Mr. Wilks produced a male calf; and there seems every probability of this Deer doing well in this country.

With regard, however, to the Formosan Deer (*Cervus taiwanus* or *taiouanus*), I was certainly wrong in supposing it to be the same as the Japanese *Cervus sika*. Knowing nothing about it, except from Mr. Blyth's description, I supposed that he who created the species was to be trusted when he destroyed it. I therefore put faith in what Mr. Blyth wrote in a letter to me (dated July 4th, 1860), that he was then "satisfied" that the Formosan and Japanese Deer were of "one and the same species." It appears, however, from what Mr. Swinhoe says (see P. Z. S. 1860, p. 235), that all the living Deer

* See P. Z. S. 1860, p. 375.

† P. Z. S. 1861, p. 238.

sent to Mr. Blyth were of the Japanese species, and that Mr. Blyth never had the Formosan species alive*. Mr. Blyth's comparison, therefore, was made between animals of the same species.

All doubt, however, as to the perfect distinctness of the Formosan Deer from the Japanese *Cervus sika* is removed since we have received the fine male of the *Cervus taëvanus*, presented to us by our Corresponding Member, Mr. Swinhoe, in December last. It will be evident to any one who inspects this animal and compares it with the adjoining specimen of *Cervus sika*, that, though probably nearly allied to the latter and belonging to the same group of Deer, it is quite distinct specifically. Its larger size and the deep-red colouring of the posterior part of the neck are quite sufficient to distinguish it. With the true form of the horns in *Cervus taëvanus* we are not yet acquainted, owing to our specimen having broken and worn down his horns while in confinement.

But we have to thank Mr. Swinhoe (who is now Vice-Consul in Formosa) for another and most valuable addition to our series of Deer. On April 28th, a specimen of what I suppose Mr. Swinhoe to mean by the "Roe-Deer"† of Formosa arrived, and is now doing well in our Menagerie. It turns out to be a species of the *Rusine* group of Deer, quite distinct from any of the four species of this section‡ we at present possess, and in all probability of a species hitherto unknown, and for which I propose the temporary designation *Cervus swinhooi*. It would appear, therefore, that there are four distinct species of Deer inhabiting the coasts of China and Japan, concerning which we require much more information:—

1. *Cervus sika*, Temm. & Sieb. (*Rusa japonica*, Gray), from Japan.

2. *Cervus pseudaxis*, Eyd. & Soul. (Gray, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 236, pl. xxvii.), from Northern China.

* Mr. Blyth says, "Mr. Sclater is wrong in identifying the Japanese and Formosan species" (Journ. As. Soc. Beng. 1861, p. 192, note); but he neglects to add that my mistake arose from the incorrect information with which he himself had furnished me.

† Mr. Swinhoe writes to me, "Four if not five Deer are on their way to you. The buck (*C. taëvanus*) left me in high condition; and a lovely animal he was. The doe of the same species sent was with young; and I have some apprehensions about her. The two buck Roe-Deer will, I think, delight the Society, as they must surely be new species. I did not know of their existence till my visit to Taiwanfoo. They are known to the Chinese here as Cheeangs, and are procured by them from the aborigines of the inner hills. The *C. taëvanus*, which is procured from the same savages, is distinguished as the Lok or Stag; and the *Cervulus* as the Kiung. I have seen nothing as yet of the Bear or the Mountain Sheep, said to be found in Formosa; but since my arrival here I have sent a fine pair of Monkeys to my friend in Hong Kong for transmission to the Gardens. They may turn out novelties, and I have no doubt you would like more; so I will try and procure a few more. The Tortoises from Southern Formosa I take to be peculiar, and I have accordingly forwarded you a few; I have also preserved some in spirits." [These Tortoises have arrived, and turn out to be *Emys bennettii*, Gray.—P. L. S.]

‡ *Cervus duvaucelii* et *C. aristotelis*, ex Ind. cont.; *C. rusa*, ex Malacca; *C. moluccensis*, ex ins. Molucc.

3. *Cervus taëvanus*, Blyth (Journ. A. S. B. xxix. p. 90), from Formosa (Pl. XVI.).

4. *Cervus swinhöi*, sp. nov., from Formosa (Pl. XVII.).

Our single male specimen of Swinhoe's Deer stands about 2 feet 8 inches in height, and presents the general appearance of a small Deer of the Sambur group (*Rusa*). The head, neck, and fore legs are greyish black, growing more rufescent on the back, and passing on the rump and hind-quarters into a deep chestnut. The tail is rather long and very bushy, and composed of grizzly blackish hairs. The inside of the thighs and belly beneath are fawn-colour, passing on the inside of the legs into pale ochraceous. The animal appears to be in about its second year. The present horns have been injured whilst growing, and are much broken.

8. ON A NEW BIRD FROM THE ISLE OF MADAGASCAR.

BY DR. G. HARTLAUB, FOR. MEMB.

(Plate XVIII.)

TYLAS*, n. g. (*Pycnonotinæ*).

Char. Gen.—*Rostrum satis robustum et elongatum, rectiusculum, emarginatum, dimidio apicali compressum, basin versus dilatatum; culmine carinato, subarcuato; naribus apertis, ovalibus; vibrissis rictalibus nonnullis conspicuis, mollibus. Alæ longiusculæ, caudæ dimidium superantes; remige prima subspuria, quarta et quinta longissimis, subæqualibus, tertia brevior, secunda multo brevior. Cauda longa, æqualis. Tarsi breviusculi; pedibus parvis; digitis gracilibus, debilibus, interno vix brevior; unguibus debilibus.*

TYLAS EDUARDI, sp. nov. *Supra subolivascenti-plumbea; capite toto nigro, nitore chalybeo; cauda dorso concolore; scapis reetricum supra nitide nigris, subtus albis; corpore subtus cum subalaribus et subcaudalibus ochraceo; capitis nigredine circumscripte albido circumdata; rostro nigro; pedibus fuscis.*

Long. tot. circa 8''; rostr. a fr. 9''; a rict. 11½''; al. 4'' 5''; caud. a bas. 3'' 4''; tars. 9½''; dig. med. c. ung. 9''.

We have named this interesting new form after its discoverer, Mr. Edward Newton, a gentleman who has recently visited Madagascar, and whose zealous efforts have very materially forwarded our knowledge of the ornithology of the East-African Archipelago.

The genus *Tylas* is nearly allied to *Hyppipetes*, but differs in the beak being decidedly stronger, broader, and more inflated; in the longer wings, which in *Hyppipetes* do not reach to the middle of the tail; in the tail being proportionally shorter; and in the rictal bristles being much more developed. The under tail-coverts are very long. The iris is yellow—a colour not found hitherto in the genus

* τυλάς, "avis quædam ignota turdina."